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Negative Declaration

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County of San Diego - Board of Supervisors, Chief Administrative Officer, Planning  
Commissioners, Planning Director, Public Works Director  
City of San Diego Community Planning Groups  
County of San Diego Community Planning and Sponsor Groups  
State Legislators, San Diego Delegation  
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North County Transit Development Board  
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County Water Authority  
Water District Managers  
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California Council of Government Directors  
League of Women Voters, Officers and Directors  
Environmental Groups - Sierra Club, Citizens Coordinate for Century 3, Environmental  
Health Coalition, San Diego Ecology Centre, I Love a Clean San Diego, et al.  
Chambers of Commerce (San Diego Region)  
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Regional Growth Management Technical Committee  
Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)  
Regional Transportation Demand Management Advisory Committee  
Regional Transportation Demand Management Technical Committee  
Shoreline Erosion Committee  
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Open Space Technical Advisory Committee and Public Participation List  
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# **WATER**

*(Updated January 2002)*

**POLICY: ENSURE A SAFE, SUFFICIENT AND RELIABLE SUPPLY OF WATER TO MEET THE EXISTING AND FUTURE WATER NEEDS OF THE SAN DIEGO REGION**

## **Introduction**

The San Diego region's economic wellbeing and quality of life depends upon securing a reliable supply of water to meet the existing and future water needs of the region. Since the 1940's, following formation of the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA), the San Diego region has relied upon water imported from outside the county due to limited local surface and groundwater supplies. Currently, 70 to 95 percent of the region's water supply is imported from the Colorado River and northern California. The CWA is a government agency comprised of cities, irrigation districts, municipal water districts, county water districts and the Pendleton Military Reservation, which is obliged by statute to provide its member agencies with adequate supplies of water to meet the increasing and expanding water needs within their respective boundaries.

The CWA and its 23 member agencies supply water to approximately 97% of San Diego County's population. With the exception of the City of Coronado, which relies upon local water via the City of San Diego, all San Diego County cities are served by the CWA. The area outside CWA's service area, but within San Diego County, is primarily rural lands and relies upon local supplies.

The CWA currently relies upon the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for imported water supplies. However, it is actively pursuing other imported water sources, including implementation of a historic agreement for the transfer of conserved water from the Imperial Irrigation District, to diversify its imported water supplies. In addition, the CWA and its member agencies have planned and are pursuing water conservation programs, water recycling, groundwater, seawater desalination, and emergency surface storage locally within the county. The CWA's present diversification program can be traced to the severe drought of 1987-92 when the San Diego region faced drastic cut backs in its imported water deliveries from MWD. In response to MWD actions the CWA developed a comprehensive plan to increase reliability and diversify supplies. This plan has been updated several times since the 1987-92 drought and is presently summarized in the CWA's 2000 Urban Water Management Plan.

In 1992, the CWA and SANDAG entered in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which details how the two regional agencies coordinate in order to ensure the availability of water for future growth. Under the MOA, the CWA agrees to use SANDAG's most recent regional growth forecasts for regional water supply planning purposes, provide updated information on changes in plans or programs, and implement relevant actions contained in the water element of the Regional Growth Management Strategy. The MOA ensures that the water demand projections for the San Diego region are linked with SANDAG's growth forecasts and that water supply is a component of the overall growth management strategy.